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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,835	06/14/2001	Yong Rui	MCS-071-00	2855
27662	7590	12/12/2005	EXAMINER	
MICROSOFT CORPORATION			SENFI, BEHROOZ M	
C/O LYON & HARR, LLP				
300 ESPLANADE DRIVE				
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	
OXNARD, CA 93036			PAPER NUMBER	
2613				
DATE MAILED: 12/12/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/681,835	RUI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Behrooz Senfi	2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Oath/Declaration***

1. Applicant is required to submit an executed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application, by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02. Since the record does not show any executed oath or declaration being submitted.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gutta et al (2002/0101505 in view of Martin et al (US 5,877,801).

Regarding claim 1, Gutta '505, teaches, an automated audio/visual presentation of a lecture (i.e. fig. 1), and a camera system that provides multiple camera views of the lecture, (fig. 1, camera 18), and changing the current camera view by switching between the multiple camera views in response to a triggering event, (fig. 3, 300, page 3, paragraph 0025). Gutta '505 teaches, a technique for video-conferencing using a camera system (fig. 3, 305) that provide omni directional image of an event and automatically tracks event participant, to determine the event participants that are speaking using audio analysis (fig. 3, 16).

Gutta '505 is silence in regards to, a virtual director and set of expert video production rules that selects a current camera view from the multiple camera views.

However, such features are well known and used in the prior art of the record as evidenced by Martin (i.e. col. 1, lines 45 – 51, cols. 3 – 4, lines 34 – 48), wherein teaches a method for omni-directional image viewing at a remote location having a user interface, as a virtual director (fig. 1, 38) for allowing a viewer to select different views.

Taking the combined teaching of Gutta and Martin as a whole, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Gutta's automated audio/video conferencing system, in having the user interface, as per teaching of Martin, for choosing and selecting a camera view of a desired perspective.

Regarding claim 2, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, wherein, the set of expert video production rules is applied by the virtual director to determine to which of the multiple camera views to switch, (col. 1, lines 45 – 51, col. 3, lines 34 – col. 4, lines 21 of Martin).

Regarding claim 3, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, triggering event and determine to when to switch the current camera view, reads on camera activation when the speaker changes, as discussed in claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, wherein the camera system includes a single camera, (fig. 1, 18 of Gutta and fig. 2, 16 of Martin).

Regarding claim 5, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, wherein the camera system includes a plurality of cameras, (page 2, paragraph 0018, lines 7 – 8 of Gutta).

Regarding claim 6, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, cinematographer that controls a camera in tracking an object within the lecture, (page 1, paragraph 0003, and page 2, paragraph 0022 of Gutta, as an alternative based on applicant specification page2, of PG-Pub 2002/0196327, paragraph 0014).

Regarding claim 7, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, providing a camera view of an audience, (fig. 1, camera 18, and audience 22).

Regarding claim 8, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, a microphone-array (fig. 3, 16) audience tracker that controls the audience-tracking camera in tracking a member of the audience, (fig. 3, 300, page2, paragraph 0018 and page 3, paragraph 0025 of Gutta).

Regarding claims 9 - 10, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, an audience-tracking status module that provides status information of the audience-tracking camera, in claim 9, (page 5, paragraph 0055 of Gutta), and wherein the status information includes a plurality of possible statuses, in claim 10 (reads on, page 5, paragraph 0055, rules that can be learned of Gutta).

Regarding claim 11, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, wherein the camera system includes a lecturer-tracking camera that provides a camera view of a lecturer, (reads on camera tracking the speaker, as discussed in claim 1).

Regarding claim 12, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, a history-based, reduced-motion tracker that controls the lecturer-tracking camera in tracking the lecturer based on a history of the lecturer's movement, (page 4, paragraphs 0033, 0034, 0043, and page 5, paragraphs 0044, 0055 of Gutta).

Regarding claim 13, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, a lecturer-tracking status module that provides status information of the lecturer-tracking camera to the virtual director, (page 4, paragraphs 0043, 0044 and page 5, paragraph 0055).

Regarding claim 14, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, wherein the virtual director includes an event generator that generates the triggering event, (page 4, paragraph 0034 of Gutta).

Regarding claim 15, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, wherein the event generator further comprises a time transition module that determines when to switch the current camera view, (fig. 3, 315, page 3, paragraph 0032 of Gutta).

Regarding claim 15, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, camera tracking the speakers and switches the view when the speaker changes, as discussed earlier with respect to claim 1. Therefore, the position transition would be necessitated in the system to focus the camera on the new speaker.

Regarding claim 17, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, wherein the location transition module is a probabilistic finite state machine having multiple states, (fig. 1, 300, which is illustrated in fig. 3).

Regarding claim 18, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 1.

Regarding claim 18, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, (fig. 1, computer 10) and computer executable instruction would have been necessitated.

Regarding claims 22 - 23, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claims 1 and 14.

Regarding claim 24, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 16.

Regarding claim 25, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, probabilistic finite state machine having multiple states that are fully connected to allow transition from one state to another (fig. 3, page 2, paragraph 0018 of Gutta, which mentions having additional cameras included in system 10 to capture views of participants, and also audio locator and speaker tracker as shown are all connected to each other).

Regarding claim 26, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 7.

Regarding claim 27, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 8.

Regarding claim 28, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 11.

Regarding claims 29 - 30, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claims 1 and 12.

Regarding claim 31, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 1.

Regarding claim 32, combination of Gutta and Martin teaches, overview camera, reads on (additional wide angle cameras may be included in system 10 of Gutta, Page 2, paragraph 0018).

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Regarding claim 33, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 22.

Regarding claim 34, the limitations claimed have been analyzed and rejected with respect to claim 15.

***contact***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Behrooz Senfi** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7339**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mehrdad Dastouri** can be reached on **(571) 272-7418**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relative to the status of the application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6000**,

**Or faxed to:**

**(571) 273-8300**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

B.M.S.

12/1/2005

  
VULE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER